





# THE HICKMAN COURIER.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1879.

## Remembered Blessings.

Alas! Alas! I did not think,  
Amidst the hours of sleep and light,  
That I should ever see the golden link  
That then between us seemed so bright.  
We little dreamt what time might bring,  
The heart is a mysterious thing;  
A change came o'er the gentle brow,  
And we are but as strangers now.  
Yet sometimes in our saddest moods,  
Amid the scenes of toil and strife,  
And on in woodland solitude,  
From the dark past come visions bright,  
Thy image rises to my eye,  
As bright as in the days gone by;  
Thy voice, low, musical and clear,  
Breathes like a spirit on my ear.  
The vanished days come vividly back  
Along life's dark and lonely track,  
Oh! thought within my bosom stir,  
And I am still thy worshipper.  
The bird that ever my pathway flies,  
The dewing vision of a dream—  
The star that lights the twilight skies,  
These things were mine in days of yore,  
These things were mine in days of yore,  
Or what thou wert or what thou art,  
The bird, the dream, the star are gone,  
And I am left alone—alone;  
Yet still I hear with sweet delight  
The song the bird sang in her flight;  
The dream, with all its fairy train,  
Still haunts the chambers of my brain.  
And often, when I gaze afar,  
Three tears were beamed the world's dew,  
It seems again to burn and glow,  
The glory of my childhood's joy,  
And on its lovely days I trace  
The picture of my life's career,  
And I am left alone—alone;  
Yet still I hear with sweet delight  
The song the bird sang in her flight;  
The dream, with all its fairy train,  
Still haunts the chambers of my brain.

## THE MURDERER FREEMAN.

WILLING TO DIE IF HIS FAITH IN GOD WAS NOT ANNULLLED.

Second Adventist, Preparing to Die.

(New York Sun.)

BARNSTABLE, MASS., May 5.—

Public sentiment throughout Eastern Massachusetts has been strongly in

only against Charles F. Freeman and

the religious sect who believe with

Freeman that the murder of his daughter

Edith was a sacrificial act demanded

of him by the supreme Being to

show to the world his just faith.

The matter is regarded as so impor-

tant that the Attorney General of the

State will be here to-morrow to give

his personal attention and the Dis-

trict Attorney has been here to day

at the funeral of little Edith on

Sunday morning, and the people

Freeman had seemed with high

confidence that God would raise Edith

to life on Sunday. His wife, at her

preliminary hearing here last Friday

before Judge Ames, on Justice

Hopkins and said, as he expressed

his confidence in the resurrection of

his wife, that he was certain that

God would raise Edith to life.

Adventists, Mr. Davis, the under-

standing of the medical Examination

gave the number 10, of the

believed that Edith would be raised

to life.

Did the others. They were certain

that there was to be a physical resur-

rection of some kind, and other

believed to the opinion that she would

rise from her coffin while the funeral

services were going on. Freeman and

his wife are in the barn which is tem-

porarily used for a jail, in Barnstable

eighteen miles from Boston. Freema-

n's cell appears to have been made

of the stall of a horse. It is boarded up

from bars are nailed to the window.

His wife was placed in a room that has

been partitioned off in the loft. These

cells, as observed by the medical Ex-

amination, could make such a prison

to the jail as could be called cell, con-

stantly without question ex-

pressing assurance that the girl had

been restored. He asked for a Bible

and was told that it would be better

for him to desist from reading the

Scriptures. He will not, however, re-

fract his cell all day. She manifested

an emotion. Once in a while she peered

through the little hole in the door out

upon Massachusetts Bay. She talked

freely about her daughter, and re-

sponded to the question of her health

and begged that the little girl

might be told of the act of the

father, because she would not under-

stand it.

The day passed, and Freeman re-

laxed at night, confessed a little dis-

satisfaction that he had not redoubled

his efforts, but his daughter had been

raised from the dead. He went to bed

and slept soundly, as did Mrs. Freema-

n. The Second Advent people at

Barnstable, however, were more or less

disturbed because the promised resur-

rection did not take place. They at-

tended the funeral, which the Rev.

Williams conducted until he was in-

terrupted by Mr. Davis, the undertak-

er. Mr. Davis, as the coffin was open-

ed at the grave, and while the little

face of Edith was exposed to view

began a defense, not so much of Mr.

Freeman's act as of his motive. He

said he knew that Freeman was accus-

ed by the highest and purest mo-

tives.

"A murderer," said one of the

spectators.

"It is no murderer," he is pro-

ving his faith in God," said Mr. Davis.

"Oh, this must stop," the Rev. Mr.

Williams said, and Davis replied that

he had the right to speak, because the

body was put in his charge by the

medical examiner, and only force

could stop him.

Then upon the brother of Freeman

an intelligent shoemaker of Natick,

who came before soon as he heard of

the murder, stepped forward. His eyes

were bloodshot, for he had not slept

for two nights, and he was haggard,

because he had eaten nothing except a

piece of bread and drank up of tea

during the same time. "I shall use

force if this does not stop. It is an

act. Permit the child to be buried in

peace." Davis saw that Freeman was

anxious, and standing over the

grave a few minutes Freeman held

the Second Adventist would hold a

convocation in the vicinity in June.

Then he shut the lid, and the coffin

was lowered into a very shallow grave.

Mr. Freeman had heard that there

might be an attempt to take the body

from the grave at night, so that it

might be announced that it had been

translated, and he watched by the

grave all night.

Davis, who seems to have taken

the leading part in the case, Freeman

is a man of strong religious views,

and he has chosen to move

in some other way. The others look

upon it in the same way, and one of

them is ready to admit that they have

made a grievous mistake. Freeman

was this morning told that his daughter

was buried, and he paced

his cell a few minutes, and then

said, "I feel that I should be

ready to admit that he had done wrong.

If he had done wrong he should be

disposed to take his own life, because

he could not bear the thought of living

after learning that he had put his

daughter in God which was not an-

swered. This is all that he would say,

and he refused to see any one but his

brother. He asked his brother whether it

could be that he had misplaced his

faith. Mrs. Freeman wept for the first

time this morning. She wept and we

except Mrs. Swift, the woman who

had agreed to take care of her house

"If we have done wrong," she said, "we

did it because we thought God com-

manded it, that the world might see

our faith in Him."

"You have done wrong," replied Mr.

Swift. "God would not command his

servants to take human life."

"But don't you see that in this case

we have to show our sacred faith in

God and his promise? We thought

so at all events, but—here Mrs. Freema-

n wept—"if we were wrong, don't

you think God will forgive us?"

Dr. Mansell, of Haverhill, had a con-

versation yesterday with Freeman and

his wife. He came away with the

conviction that the case is more nat-

urally than any of a similar kind re-

corded in the medical books. He says

that neither Freeman nor his wife is

insane. They are perfectly rational

in every respect. They are, however,

in a morbid mental state, and have one

delusion—that God can and does

speak directly to human beings. Freema-

n said, and his wife also, that when

ever course was taken with them, they

did not want any plan of insanity

entered. He admitted that he under-

stood the act with a full understanding

of what he was doing. He knew that

he was violating the law. He knew

that the people would look upon it as a

horrible crime, and he knew that it

would be easy for him to take the life

of his little daughter. "Why," he

said to Dr. Mansell, "I was playing

around my wife and I was at work all

last week—and here I find that she

was the natural victim of a father—

and do you think I could do such a

thing unless something more powerful

than insanity commanded me?" To

test him further Dr. Mansell asked

him if he would look upon it as a

crime. He answered that he had

been told that he had been doing any

thing but obeying the command of

God, but if he had made a mistake

he would hope to die rather than live any

longer.

When asked by a gentleman whether

he did not think it a delusion to be-

lieve that God put things into the

hearts of men to do, he at once re-

sponded, "No, you think it a delusion

when your minister tells you that God

put it into his heart to preach the

gospel, or that God directed him to

be a missionary? Now, I just as

firmly believe that God put it into my

heart—that he spoke to me and that

the world might know that he was

with me as great as Abraham's

I did think that he would stay my

hand before I struck a blow. I don't

see any difference between my firm

belief that God speaks to me and the

firm belief of others that they have

been in personal communion with God."

This conversation was repeated to

the District Attorney Knowlton. "What

answer," said the gentleman to the

attorney, "could I make to such an

argument?"

To another person Freeman said that

he did not understand why the other

Adventists were blamed by Christians,

for all Christians believe that Abraham

was commanded to sacrifice Isaac, and

they can believe that God said, "Who

are my religious fellow-worshippers,

blamed for believing with me that I

was commanded to sacrifice my daughter

in this better day? I believe,

with a perfect abiding faith, that I was

commanded to show my just faith in

God."

The District Attorney and this at-

ternoon that the case legally was over.

Enough. Here are a man and woman

who, with complete and perfect knowl-

edge of what they are doing, with

abundant opportunity to reflect, and

admitting that they understood the

responsibility they were assuming, kill

a child. They must be indicted for

murder in the first degree. Medical

testimony will be introduced. The

question is whether the jury will ac-

cept such a delusion as should lead to ac-

quittal? But if the mitigation plea of

delusion be allowed in the case of Freema-

n and his wife, public sentiment, at

least at present, will not see fit to

condemn the cases of the other Adventists.

Sentiment has gone so far that I learn

of several Unitarian pulpits hereabout

that the crime was advised to yes-

terday in the moral outcome of the

teachings of the scriptures, and the







